



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



FIRST
TALES FOR
CHILDREN

45. 899.







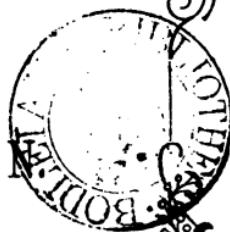
TALES
FOR
CHILDREN.



FIRST TALES

FOR

CHILDREN.



FROM THE

GERMAN OF CHRISTOPH SCHMID.

BY MISS F. JOHNSTON,

Author of "Agnes," "Parables from the German," &c.

BATH:

BINNS AND GOODWIN.

LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS, AND CO.

1845.

BATH . PRINTED BY BINNS AND GOODWIN.

FIRST TALES FOR CHILDREN.

I.

THE TRUE GOD.

Happy the child, who by faith can say,
“Abba ! Father ! hear me pray.”

A PIous child dwelt once near an idolator, to whom he frequently said, “There is but one living God, who created the heavens and the earth. It is He who causes the sun to shine, and sends the rain. He marks all our actions, knows all our thoughts, and listens to our prayers. He alone is able to punish, or reward us ; to save, or condemn us ; the idols which you worship are made out of the dust, and they can neither see nor understand ; therefore can neither do you good nor harm.” Thus spake the boy ; but the idolator closed his ears to the word of truth.

It happened one day, that he was called, by his employment, some distance into the country, when his young neighbour profited by his absence, and destroyed all the idols but the largest, in the hands of which he placed an immense club.

On the return of the idolator, and discovering the destruction of his gods, he exclaimed, in wrath, “Ah ! who hath done this wicked deed ?”

Then answered the boy, “Can you not suppose that your great idol hath destroyed the others, which are so much smaller than itself ?”

“No,” replied the man, in angry accents, “I cannot suppose or believe that, for he hath never been known to move from his place. It must have been you, wicked boy, who have destroyed my gods ; and you shall atone for it with your life.”

“Nay, my friend, be not angry,” rejoined the young Christian, gently ; “if you will not allow to your god even the power of doing what I, a weak child, might accomplish, how can he be the great and powerful Being who created the heavens and the earth ?”

The idolator answered not ; but, after a few moments’ reflection, he destroyed the remaining idol, and prostrating himself, adored, for the first time, the true and only God.

II.

THE GOOD FATHER.

THE Father of a family was obliged, by his affairs, to reside sometimes in the capital ; he therefore engaged for his children a small house in a distant part of the country. One day the little ones received from their kind parent a large box, filled with presents, accompanied by the following letter :—“My dear children, continue obedient and pious, and you shall, in a short time, rejoin me. Rejoice ! for I have reserved still more beautiful presents in the home which I have prepared for you.”

“Ah ! how good papa is !” exclaimed the children, delightedly ; “how many pleasures he procures us ; and we will love him also with all our heart, and do all he commands us, though we cannot see him, and can scarcely recollect his

features. Oh ! how happy we shall be to see again our kind papa."

"Ah ! my dear children," replied the mother, "as your kind father acts towards you, even so does the good God towards men. We see him not, it is true ; nevertheless, we receive of him a thousand precious gifts, whereby he manifests his love. The sun, the moon, the stars, the flowers, the fruits, and all the productions of the earth, are of Him ; and the Holy Scripture is, as it were, the letter wherein he indicates to us his will, and promises to receive us hereafter in heaven, where there await us still more glorious gifts, and pleasures more exquisite than any we can enjoy on earth. Let us love the Lord with all our hearts, my dear children ; keep his commandments ; and cherish the hope of being admitted into heaven, where we shall see him face to face, and our joy will be unspeakable."

III.

THE BROTHER AND SISTER.

JOHN and Anna were one day left alone in the house, when the former said to his sister, "Come, Anna, let us go and find something nice to eat."

"Very well," replied the little girl ; "I will accompany you, if you will take me to a place where we shall not be seen."

"Come, then," said John ; "we will go into the dairy, and have some cream."

"No," replied his sister, "for there is a man cutting wood in the court, and he will certainly see us."

"In that case," said John, "let us go into the

kitchen ; there is delicious honey in the cupboard ; we will have some upon bread."

But Anna again answered, " You forget that our neighbour sits at her window to spin, and can easily see us in the kitchen."

" Well, then," rejoined the little glutton, " we will go to the cellar, and have some apples ; there I am sure no one can see us ; it is so dark."

" Ah ! my dear brother," replied the little girl, " do you really think no one can see us there ? Do you not know that there is an eye which can penetrate walls and darkness ?"

Struck by the observation, John blushed, and looking up into the face of his sister, said, " You are right, Anna ; the eye of God is everywhere, and we cannot escape from it. I have no longer any wish to do wrong."

Anna was delighted to find that her brother had taken her words to heart ; and going to her desk, she presented him with a beautiful seal, upon which was engraved the following motto :

Oh ! that thy pure eye, my God,
May infuse a salutary fear,
And remove from me the temptation to err.

IV.

FINE WEATHER.

" OH ! if the sun would but always shine," exclaimed Frederica, one day, when it rained in torrents.

It was not long before her wish was gratified. For months there appeared scarcely a cloud in the heavens, and the dearth was fearful. The flowers withered, and hung down their heads, in the garden of the little girl ; and the flax, which she

had promised herself so much pleasure in cultivating, scarcely attained to the length of her finger. "You behold now, my child," said her mother, "that storms are as necessary as sunshine ; therefore is it also necessary that we should be tried by misfortunes in this world. To arrive at perfection in virtue, we must be proved by sorrow and affliction."

V.

THE SHOWER.

A TRADER was returning one day on horseback from a neighbouring fair, carrying, attached to his saddle, a small valise filled with money. It rained violently, and the poor man was wet to the skin. Out of humour, and murmuring that he should have such bad weather for his journey, he reached a gloomy part of the forest. Suddenly there appeared a robber, who, raising his gun, attempted to fire ; but the powder being wet by the rain, would not explode, and the terrified trader, putting spurs to his horse, succeeded in making his escape.

"Ah ! how wrong I was," he exclaimed, on finding himself in security, "not to bear the rain patiently as a work of the Lord's. Had the weather been fine, I should most probably have been killed, and now lying in my blood, while my poor children were looking in vain for my return. The rain at which I murmured hath been the means of saving both my life and my money."

VI.

THE RAINBOW.

A TEMPESTUOUS shower of rain had just refreshed the earth, and imparted new vigour to

the fields, when there appeared on the horizon a splendid rainbow. The little Henry, who was standing at a window, perceived it, and cried, in a transport of joy, "Oh ! what beautiful colours ; how brilliant and glorious ! Look, papa, yonder near the old willow, by the side of the brook, where they descend from the clouds to the earth. Oh ! I am sure those lovely colours are falling in little drops upon each leaf of the tree ; I will run and fill the saucers of my colour-box with them." And the little boy scampered away joyously towards the tree ; but, to his great disappointment, he found, on arriving there, that all the brilliant colours had disappeared, and was moreover caught in a shower of rain. With a melancholy countenance, and shivering with cold, he returned home, and related his disappointment.

"My child," replied his father, smiling, "it were impossible to collect those beautiful tints ; they are but drops of rain, which gleam for a few moments in the brilliance of the sun ; mere splendid hues have nothing real or durable. It is even so, my dear child, with all the pomps and vanities of this world ; they appear as something to us, but are, in reality, a vain and passing brilliancy."

VII.

THE SHELL AND THE KERNEL.

THE little Louisa one day picked up a walnut in the garden, enclosed in its green shell. Mistaking it for an apple, she put it into her mouth ; but had scarcely bitten it, when she threw it away in disgust, exclaiming, "Ah ! how bitter

and disagreeable ! ” Her brother Conrad, who was more wise, immediately picked it up, and stripping off the skin with his teeth, said, “ I do not mind the bitterness of the shell, for I know that within is hidden a nut, whose sweetness I shall only the more appreciate.”

VIII.

THE ECHO.

GEORGE had not the least idea of an echo. Amusing himself one day shouting in the meadows, he was surprised at hearing his cries repeated from a neighbouring wood.

“ Who are you ? ” exclaimed the perplexed boy ; and the mysterious voice immediately replied, “ Who are you ? ” “ You are a foolish boy ! ” rejoined the angry George. “ Foolish boy ! ” repeated the voice from the wood.

George now became furious, and vented his anger in loud and injurious expressions, all which the echo as faithfully returned. Having sought in vain around the wood for the boy, whom he supposed was concealed there, the angry child returned home, and told his mother that a very naughty boy had hidden himself in the wood in order to abuse him.

“ My child, ” replied the mother, “ you have betrayed and abused yourself. Know that you heard only your own words ; in the same manner as you have frequently seen your own face reflected in a stream, have you now heard your own voice from the forest. Had you made use of kind expressions, the same would have been returned to you.”

Thus, it often happens in this world, that the

conduct of others is but the echo of our own. If we behave with civility, we shall generally meet with the same ; but if, on the contrary, we are rude and unkind, we must expect to be treated in the like manner."

IX.

THE SPRING.

THE little William was one very warm day walking in the fields ; his cheeks were glowing from the heat, and his thirst was excessive. At length he reached a spring, the silvery waters of which gushed from a rock, overshadowed by an old oak. The poor child sprung towards the water to assuage his thirst, but had scarcely finished drinking, when he fell almost insensible to the earth.

On arriving at home, he became extremely ill, and was attacked by a violent and dangerous fever. "Ah !" he exclaimed, as he lay sighing upon a bed of suffering, "who would have thought, on beholding that beautiful stream, that it contained so pernicious a poison ?"

"Nay, my child," replied his father, who heard the observation, "it was not the pure waters of the stream which caused your illness ; but your own imprudence."

X.

THE FLOWERS.

ONE lovely day in spring, the youthful Margaret was amusing herself with gathering wild flowers, and forming them into a nosegay, when she suddenly perceived near a hedge a cluster of beautiful violets. Transported with joy, she commenced

incautiously gathering them. "My child," cried an aged peasant, "hasten from that hedge, for venomous vipers have made their abode there."

Margaret, struck with terror, hesitated for a moment; but the desire of possessing the beautiful violets was not to be overcome. "I must have that beautiful blue one, which is peering out of the grass," she exclaimed, extending her hand towards it. Scarcely had the words escaped her lips, when a viper sprung from the grass upon her hand, and twined itself around her arm. Its venom spread rapidly through her blood, and in a few short hours the little girl was a corpse.

XI.

THE LITTLE GLUTTON.

A NOBLE lady having obtained the situation of page for her little boy at the court of a prince, said to him, on the day of his departure, "My dear Adolphus, take the Lord always with you in your heart, and act on every occasion as though he were present. Respect the prince, your master, as you would your father; fail not to love your companions as brethren; and beware of gluttony, which is your principal failing."

Adolphus promised obedience, and departed. On his arrival at the court, he was appointed to attend on the prince at dinner. One day, having received a silver dish, filled with stewed pears, to place upon the table, he was seized with the irresistible desire of tasting them.

He had not forgotten the advice of his mother, but he would follow his inclination; and snatching one of the pears quickly from the dish, before entering the dining-room, he swallowed it hastily.

But scarcely had the unhappy child placed the dish upon the board, when he fell dead upon the floor. The pear he had so greedily swallowed, being extremely hot, had injured his stomach, and caused his sudden death.

XII.

THE TURNIP.

A POOR countryman had succeeded in raising a turnip of such an immense size, as to excite the astonishment of all who beheld it. "I will make it a present to my Lord," said the poor man, "for he takes pleasure in seeing the fields and gardens diligently cultivated." Accordingly he conveyed the gigantic turnip to the castle. The nobleman applauded the good will and industry of the peasant, and presented him with a purse, containing three ducats.

Another countryman who resided in the village, and was very rich and avaricious, hearing of the good fortune of his neighbour, said, "I will go immediately and offer the finest of my sheep to my Lord; doubtless, as he hath given three peices of gold for a sorry turnip, I may expect a handsome renumeration for so fine an animal." On arriving at the castle, he presented the sheep, which he had conducted thither in a string, with a request that his Lord would accept it. The nobleman, however, discerning the motive of such a piece of generosity, declined the present; but the countryman earnestly imploring him not to disdain his offering, he at length consented to receive it, saying, "Well, then! as you compel me to accept it, I will do so; but as you have shown yourself thus gene-

rous, I must not be ungrateful, and will, in return, make you a present, which hath cost me three times the value of your sheep."

After he had thus spoken, he presented the astonished and discomfited peasant, with the gigantic turnip, which he was already but too well acquainted with.

XIII.

THE THEFT.

THE little Gregory, perceiving one morning from his window, a number of beautiful apples lying upon the ground in a neighbouring orchard, descended quickly into the garden, and creeping through a hole in the hedge, upon his hands and knees, filled the pockets of his coat and waistcoat. But scarcely had he done so, when a man suddenly appeared with a large stick in his hand.

The little thief, upon this, endeavoured to make his escape through the hole by which he had entered, but remained caught in the opening, encumbered by the apples, with which he had too well filled his pockets.

The farmer seized him by the collar, and emptied his pockets, and after giving him a severe beating, said, "Remember, in future, that an unjust acquisition brings with it its own punishment."

XIV.

THE OAK AND THE WILLOW.

AFTER a very stormy night, the old countryman, Richard, followed by his son, the little Anselm, walked out into the country to see what damage had been done among the trees.

"Oh, look ! father," cried the boy, pointing to a magnificent oak, which lay prostrate on the earth. "The vigorous oak is torn up by the roots, while the slender willow yonder beside the brook is still standing. I should have thought the wind would more easily have torn up the willow, than the oak."

"My dear child," replied the old man, "the proud oak being unable to bend before the storm, is of necessity destroyed ; while the supple willow, yielding to the violence of the tempest, affords no purchase to the wind, and thus escapes destruction."

XV.

THE NUT.

Two boys discovered, one day, a nut under a large tree near the village. "It is mine," said one ; "for I saw it first." "Nay, indeed," cried the other, "but it belongs to me, for I picked it up."

Upon this they began to quarrel violently, when a youth who happened to be passing by, and heard the dispute, offered to be umpire ; and placing himself between the disputants, he broke the nut, and said : "One of the shells belongs to him who first discovered the nut ; and the other shall be for him who picked it up ; but the kernel, I retain, as the price of the judgment I have awarded. Such," he added, laughing, "is generally the end of all litigation."

XVI.

THE EARS OF CORN.

A FARMER went out one day into his fields to see if the corn was beginning to ripen ; he was accompanied by his son, the little Tobias.

"Ah ! look, papa," cried the inexperienced child, "how upright some of the ears of corn are ; they are apparently the best ; and the others which are bent nearly to the ground, certainly cannot be good for much."

The farmer approached the field, and gathering some of the corn, said, "Examine those ears which elevate so proudly their heads, my child ; they are entirely empty ; while those, on the contrary, which bend so modestly, are filled with the finest grain."

XVII.

THE FISH.

A POOR fisherman conducted his little bark one morning, out upon the lake, and spread his nets. But in vain he toiled ; not the smallest fish rewarded his labour.

Returning towards night, sad and disappointed, he sighed as he thought of his expecting family, and murmured to himself as he rowed slowly along, "Perhaps it is because I prayed not this morning for the blessing of God upon my labours, that I have prospered so ill. Ah, I will take heed in future not to forget this." Scarcely had he thus spoken, when a large fish, pursued by another, jumped violently out of the water, and falling into the boat, lay panting at the feet of the astonished and grateful fisherman.

XVIII.

THE MISER.

THERE was once a rich man, who lived very miserably ; his usual food was pulse, because he considered it the cheapest he could procure.

In order, however, not to exceed a certain quantity, and to ascertain upon how few grains he could exist, he counted out daily, one by one, a certain number. But thus occupying his time, he neglected the more necessary cares of his household, and permitted his goods to be wasted; for frequently, while he saved a few grains by counting them, his servants would rob him of a sack. Thus he ended by reducing himself to poverty.

XIX.

THE CANARY.

THE little Christiana had often desired to possess a Canary, which her kind mama had promised to procure her, if she continued diligent and obedient.

One day, on the little girl returning from school, her mama said to her, "My dear Christiana, I am going out for a short time. There is a little box on the table; do not upon any account open or touch it. If you are obedient, and attend to my request, I have a pleasure in reserve for you on my return." The little girl promised; but scarcely had her mama left the room, when the naughty and disobedient child took up the box. "How light it is!" she exclaimed, examining it with attention, and there are little holes pierced in the lid:—what can it contain?"

After a few moments' hesitation, concluding that her mama would never know of her disobedience, she opened the box, when there sprung forth a beautiful golden canary, which flew chirping around the room.

The little girl, frightened at the escape of the

bird, now endeavoured to catch it, in order to replace it in the box ; but the little prisoner eluded her anxious grasp, and flushed and breathless she was still vainly pursuing it, when her mama entered the room, and regarding her with a serious countenance, said, “Curious and disobedient girl, the bird was intended as a present for you ; but I desired to prove, first, whether you were worthy of it. Unhappily such is not the case ; I shall therefore return it immediately to the bird-seller.”

XX.

THE FROWARD BOY.

FREDERICK was a petulant, froward child, who heeded not the best and kindest advice, but turned it into ridicule. He neglected his little garden, and allowed it to be overrun with weeds, whilst his sister Sophia's was carefully attended to by her, and ornamented with the most beautiful flowers. Walking together one day in the orchard, Sophia said, “How can you, my dear brother, thus neglect your garden ? What mama said will certainly turn out to be true ;—you will never attain any thing elevated.” Frederick replied by a laugh, and climbing up the branches of a lofty pear-tree, cried out from the summit, “Look, Sophia, and you will see, or I mistake much, that I have attained to something elevated.” Scarcely, however, had he pronounced the words, when the branch gave way, and Frederick fell to the ground, and broke his arm.

XXI.

THE PRECIOUS PLANT.

Two young girls, of the names of Bridget and Walbury, met one day on their way to market ; each carried on her head a basket heavily laden with fruit. Bridget complained of the weight of her load, and was continually sighing ; while Walbury only chatted and laughed merrily. Then said Bridget, "How is it that you can laugh and be so happy ? Your basket is certainly at least as heavy as mine, and I am quite as strong as you are." "I have added unto my burden," answered Walbury, "a certain plant, and by that means I scarcely feel the weight ; do so also, and you will find the advantage." "That I will, and gladly," rejoined Bridget, eagerly ; "it must be a most precious plant ; pray, tell me its name, that I may get it immediately, to lessen the weight of my basket."

"The precious plant," answered Walbury, "which alone has the power of lessening the weight of every burthen, is called *patience*."

XX.

THE PUMPTION.

A COUNTRYMAN was one day reposing beneath the shade of a lofty oak, and regarding attentively a pumption-vine which trailed its length over a neighbouring hedge. Shaking his head with an air of profound wisdom, he said to himself, "Hem, hem, I like not to see this weak and contemptible vine, producing such a magnificent fruit, whilst the noble and stately oak bears only a miserable acorn. Had I created the world,

upon the oak should have shone the golden pumpions, the least of which weighs twenty pounds."

Scarcely had the words escaped his lips, when an acorn fell from the oak, and struck him so sharply upon the nose as to produce blood. "Ah!" cried now our affrighted philosopher, "I have received the reward of my folly; had the acorn been a pumpon, it could not fail to have killed me."

XXIII.

THE MUSHROOMS.

THE little Mary was one day sent by her mother to gather mushrooms in the forest, for her father's dinner, the good man being particularly fond of them. "Oh! mother," cried the child, returning after a short absence, and uncovering her basket, while joy sparkled in her eyes, "only see what beautiful mushrooms I have found; they are the colour of scarlet, and covered with little pearls. There were a great many, also, of those ugly grey ones, like what you brought home the other day, but I took care not to gather any of them; they are so disagreeable."

"Foolish child!" exclaimed her terrified mother; "these beautiful mushrooms, notwithstanding their bright colours and pearly ornaments, are a poisonous fungus; whilst the grey ones, on the contrary, which you thus despise, are the very best. Thus it is, my child, with many things in this world; the homely and modest virtues are overlooked or contemned, whilst brilliant vices are admired and imitated by fools. Therefore does sin also assume a pleasing and agreeable exterior, in order to seduce and destroy the unwary."

XXIV.

THE CABBAGE.

JOSEPH and Benjamin, two village apprentices, were one day loitering along the road. "Look," exclaimed Joseph, as they approached a neighbouring garden, "what immense heads of cabbages." "I cannot say I see anything very remarkable in their size," answered Benjamin; "in my journey into France I saw a cabbage which was much larger than the vicar's house, which you see yonder!"

"Really," said Joseph, who was a brass founder, "that is saying much; however, I remember once working at a boiler, which was, at least, as big as the church."

"Indeed!" exclaimed Benjamin; "what could they intend to do with such a huge caldron?"

"Why, it was to boil your cabbage in, I suppose," replied Joseph, calmly.

"Ah!" rejoined the now confused and blushing Benjamin, "I see what you mean, for you are not in the habit of departing from the truth. You are ridiculing my story, which was, in truth, a very great falsehood."

XXV.

THE OAK.

THERE came once before a tribunal of justice two young men, named Edmund and Oswald. The former thus addressed the judge: "Being three years since about to undertake a voyage, I committed to the care of Oswald, whom I regarded as my best friend, a valuable ring, formed of the most precious stones. This he now will not return, and denies having ever received."

“Nay,” answered Oswald, laying his hand upon his heart, “I swear most solemnly I know nothing about the ring in question, and fear that my friend Edmund has lost his senses.”

“Edmund,” said the judge, “can you not produce any witness to prove that you intrusted the ring to this young man?”

“Unluckily, no,” replied Edmund; “there was not any one present at the time; unless,” he added, with a smile, “it was an old oak which stood in the middle of the field, and under which we parted.”

“I am ready to make oath that I know no more of the tree than of the ring in question,” rejoined Oswald.

“Go you, my friend,” said the wise judge, addressing Edmund, “and procure me a branch of the said tree; I have a particular desire to see one. Oswald shall remain here until you return.”

A short time after the departure of Edmund, the old judge said to Oswald, “What can have detained the youth? Open the window, and see whether he is arrived.”

“Your worship,” replied Oswald, “he cannot yet have returned, for the tree is more than two miles from hence.”

“Impious and dishonest man!” exclaimed the judge, “did you not offer to take oath that you knew as little of the tree as of the ring? I now perceive that you know as much of the ring as of the tree.”

Upon this, Oswald was compelled to give up the jewel, and was severely punished also beside the tree in question.

XXVI.

THE FIELD.

THE cottage of poor Nicholas stood surrounded by a patch of ground which was entirely covered with weeds and briars. As he one day, in harvest, was reclining beneath the shade of an old apple-tree, he perceived a peasant passing by, leading a waggon heavily laden with rich hay. Nicholas looked with an envious eye at the waggon, scarcely returning the salutation of the countryman. The latter observing this, said, "If you would, my friend, only weed each day as much of that barren and uncultivated land as you cover with your lazy and sluggish body, at the end of the year you would possess, at least, as much hay as you now perceive upon my waggon."

This suggestion was not lost upon Nicholas, who immediately set about weeding and removing the briars and brambles; and so vigorously did he labour, that, in a short time, he gained a field which did not cost him a single farthing, and was amply sufficient for all the wants of himself and family.

XXVII.

THE JUGGLER.

A JUGGLER once applied to a certain prince, requesting permission to exhibit before him a feat of jugglery.

The prince acceded to his request, and the man appeared, carrying in his hand a shell filled with peas soaked in water. Having procured a needle, he caused it to be held before him, and

threw the peas with such dexterity, that they all remained attached to the point of the needle.

“ My good friend,” said the prince, “ you have certainly taken a great deal of trouble, and must have devoted many hours in order to acquire such dexterity. I will, therefore, make you a suitable reward ; ” and turning to an attendant, he whispered something in his ear. The man bowed and retired ; and after a few moments’ absence, returned, bearing a sack, which appeared very weighty. The juggler looked surprised, supposing that it was filled with gold. At the command of the prince, the sack was opened, and found to contain nothing but peas.

The wise ruler then turned to the disappointed juggler, saying, “ As your dexterity cannot be of the least use to mankind, you are likely to be but ill rewarded, and will, consequently, soon stand in need of the necessary peas ; I have, therefore, thought it advisable to furnish you with a supply.”

XXVIII.

THE TREASURE.

IN a far distant land, there came one day before a certain judge two countrymen, one of whom thus addressed the magistrate :—“ I bought a plot of ground from this my neighbour ; and in turning it up, I found a treasure, which my conscience will not permit me to retain, as I bought the land only, and not the treasure, and, therefore, have no right to appropriate it.”

“ And my conscience,” added the other countryman, “ equally forbids my receiving this gold and silver ; for as I did not conceal them in the field, they cannot, therefore, belong to me ; besides

which, I sold the land, and all that it contained, to my neighbour, and retained no further right over it. It remains with you then to decide, most wise judge, to whom this treasure belongs."

"My friends," replied the worthy magistrate, "I am given to understand that one of you has a son, who is about to marry the daughter of the other; bestow, therefore, this treasure upon the young people, in order to establish them in the world."

The two honest countrymen promised to follow this advice, and returned home together, joy and peace remaining in their hearts.

Second Part.

A STRANGER, who happened to be present, expressed his surprise at this judgment, saying, "In my country the affair would have been otherwise decided. In the first place, the finder would not have had to give up a farthing of the treasure to the seller of the land, because he would have kept the discovery secret. If, however, he had not succeeded in doing this, the seller would have betrayed him to justice, and laid claim to the treasure; a process would have arisen, which, perhaps, in the end would have cost more than the treasure was found to be worth."

These words excited the astonishment of the good magistrate, who said to the stranger, "Does the sun shine in your land also?"

"Assuredly," replied the other.

"And the rain," enquired the judge; "does it fall there too?"

"Yes."

"Well, that is very singular; but have you any cows and sheep there?"

“Yes; a very great number,” replied the stranger.

“Ah! well,” exclaimed the judge, “it is without doubt for the sake of those innocent animals that the good God sends the sunshine and the rain; for most certainly the inhabitants merit them not at his hands.”

XXIX.

THE LANDMARK.

FARMER Ulric inhabited a very handsome house, surrounded by a very pretty green lawn, which was planted with different kinds of fruit trees. This lawn lay near the meadow of a neighbour, and was only separated by the landmark.

Thinking to increase his own possessions, at the expense of another, he one night removed this mark further into the grounds of his neighbour. A short time after, having occasion to gather his cherries, he mounted to one of the trees by means of a ladder. On reaching the top, the ladder having been placed too perpendicularly, turned back with him, and he fell to the ground, fracturing his skull against the boundary, which he had removed thither. Had he left this in its original place, he would have fallen upon the grass beyond it, and sustained scarcely any injury.

XXX.

THE COCK.

AN industrious old lady, the mother of a large family, was accustomed to call up her servants every morning when the cock began to crow. This so excited the anger of her household

against the poor bird that they put him to death, thinking that thereby they would ensure to themselves a few hours more sleep. But, behold ! the old lady, no longer knowing the hour, now awakened them every morning much earlier, and sometimes even at midnight.

XXXI.

THE BIRD'S NEST.

THERE was once a very cruel child, who was in the habit of seeking for bird's nests in all the hedges, and with a savage pleasure destroying the eggs, and putting out the eyes of the young birds which he found.

His mother frequently said to him : "God will most certainly punish you, if you do not correct yourself of these wicked habits." But the naughty boy only laughed at his good mother's remonstrances and warnings, and became every day more and more wicked.

One Sunday, instead of going to church, he betook himself to the forest, to indulge his cruel propensities. Perceiving a large nest on the summit of a very lofty oak, he climbed up the branches, tore one of the young birds out of the nest, and threw it with violence to the ground. But just as he was about to seize another, the parents returned, and being birds of prey, flew upon the spoiler of their young, and tore out both his eyes.

XXXII.

THE HEN.

AN old woman once possessed a hen which produced her every morning an egg. Concluding that if she gave it more to eat, it would

produce two or three eggs a day, she made it so fat that in a short time it gave up laying altogether.

XXXIII.

MALICE DEFEATED.

AN industrious gardener planted the slip of a vine against the side of his house. In the course of time, the luxuriant tendrils covered the whole expanse of wall, and produced some excellent grapes.

This excited the envy of a neighbour, and he came one night when the old gardener was absent, and cut away the finest branches, thinking thereby to destroy the vine. The next day, the poor man discovered what had been done, and was sore distressed, for, at that period, it was not understood that pruning rendered a vine more fruitful. "It brings tears into my eyes when I look at this beautiful vine, in such a mutilated state," sighed the gardener.

However, in a short time the vine again put forth branches, and that year, it produced finer grapes, and a greater number. This suggested to the observing gardener, the happy idea of pruning and removing the superfluous leaves, in order to obtain finer and better fruit.

XXXIV.

THE DISHONEST TRADER.

A TRADER one day applied to a very rich lady who cultivated her own flax, saying, "If you will give me a ducat and a sack of the seed of your flax, which is not a very good kind, I will give you, in exchange, a particularly fine sort, which comes from abroad."

The lady accepted the offer. But the dishonest trader said within himself, for he was an experienced rogue, "I will trick this lady, and return her her own seed, and get a ducat for my trouble. If the flax should turn out ill, I can easily attribute it to the badness of the season, or the quality of the soil."

Upon this, he returned with the same sack of seed; and the lady, perfectly satisfied, caused it to be immediately emptied before her. While examining it, she perceived something glittering among the seed; and, on looking nearer, discovered that it was a magnificent ring set with diamonds. Taking it up, she exclaimed in surprise, "Why, here is the ring I lost in the autumn; it must have slipped off my finger while I was occupied superintending my flax."

Then, turning to the convicted trader, she added, "You have proved yourself a great knave, and your dishonesty is now fully apparent. You purposed imposing my own seed upon me for a better kind, and defrauding me of a ducat; instead of which you will be compelled to pay the ducat, and be disgraced for your dishonesty." Accordingly, he was taken before a magistrate, and sentenced to pay the ducat; and, on the affair gaining publicity, it so injured his character, that he was obliged to give up his business, and leave the country.

XXXV.

THE BEES.

GOING one day into the garden of a neighbour, Albert perceived a rose-tree covered with beautiful full-blown roses. Snatching one from the

bush, he exclaimed, "I must inhale all the fragrance." But he had scarcely raised it to his nose, when a bee, which had been concealed in the cup of the flower, sprung from its downy bed and stung him on the nose; the heedless hand of the child having nearly crushed the industrious little insect.

Second Part.

Albert now became dreadfully angry, and filling his hands with dirt, commenced pelting the hive with the fury of a little maniac. This so irritated the bees, that they attacked him in swarms; and by the time he was extricated from his situation, he had received more than a hundred stings. He suffered excruciating pain, and became so ill, that for a long time his life was despaired of.

XXXVI.

THE LITTLE DOG.

A YOUNG lady, named Caroline, was one day walking by the side of the river, when she perceived some wicked, mischievous children endeavour to drown a little dog. Taking compassion on the poor trembling animal, she purchased it from its tormentors, and conveyed it home.

The little dog soon became attached to its new mistress, and would never leave her for a moment. One night, as she was about to retire to rest, he began suddenly to bark and scratch against the bed. Taking a candle, Caroline looked under the bed; when she discovered, concealed behind the curtain, a ferocious looking man. It was a robber. Her cries alarmed the household, and

they all rushed to her apartment, and secured the robber. Upon being taken to prison and tried, he confessed that he had intended to murder the young lady, and then to rob the house. Caroline returned her grateful thanks to the Almighty for having preserved her, and said to her mama, "Ah! no one would ever have imagined that the poor little animal whose life I saved, would have been the means of saving mine in return."

XXXVII.

THE VINE.

A COUNTRYMAN, being on his death-bed, called his three sons to him, and thus addressed them: "My dear children, I have nothing to leave you but this cottage, and the vine which grows upon it. In the latter there is, however, a great treasure concealed; continue to dig around for it, and you will not fail at length to discover it."

After the death of the old man, his sons employed themselves in clearing the vine, and turning up all the earth about it; but they failed in discovering either the gold or silver they had anticipated. The ground, never before so worked and cultivated with so much industry, amply, however, repaid the labours bestowed upon it; and the vine this year produced so large a quantity of grapes, that the young countrymen were greatly astonished. Then understood they the meaning of their father's words, and they caused the following inscription to be written in large characters upon the vine: "Real treasure is that *constant labor* to which we devote our hours and *moments*."

XXXVIII.

THE FLY AND THE SPIDER.

“FOR what purpose could God ever have created flies and spiders? Such insects can surely be of no use to man,” was the frequent and impatient remark of a young prince, who would, had he the power, have destroyed every fly and spider in his dominions.

It happened some years after, during a war, that this prince found himself obliged to abandon his kingdom, and fly from his enemies. Arriving in a forest, he lay down under a tree, and fell asleep. While buried in slumber, he was discovered by one of the enemies’ soldiers, who, with a drawn sword, was softly approaching him; when a little fly suddenly alighted upon his cheek, and stinging him so violently, he started up in time to arrest the blow of the assassin. The soldier immediately took to flight, and the young prince sought refuge in a neighbouring cavern. During the night, a large spider spread her web over the opening by which he had entered. In the morning, two soldiers, who had traced the fugitive thus far, approached the grotto, and the concealed prince heard one of them say, “No doubt he has hidden himself in this cavern.” “No,” replied the other, “for if he had entered here, he must have destroyed this spider’s web across the doorway.”

“Ah, my God!” cried the prince, raising his hands to heaven, when the men had withdrawn, “what mercies have I not to praise thee for Yesterday,” he continued, with emotion, “it pleased thee to save my life by means of a fly.

and to-day thou hast preserved me by a spider. Nothing can equal the perfection of thy works, and the wisdom with which thou dost preside over them."

XXXIX.

THE STARLING.

OLD Maurice, the huntsman, had brought up a young starling, which he taught to repeat several sentences. Thus, when he said, "Starling, where are you?" the bird would immediately reply, "Here I am!"

Charles, the little son of a neighbour, had often listened with surprise and delight to the bird, and would come frequently to see it. One day, on arriving as usual to pay his visit, he found the huntsman from home. Taking advantage of his absence, he seized the bird, and concealed it in his pocket. But just as he was about to escape with his prize, Old Maurice returned, and thinking to afford the little boy a pleasure, cried out, "Starling, where are you?" "Here I am," replied the bird, as loud as he could scream, from the bottom of the naughty little thief's pocket.

XL.

THE FOOLISH SHEEP.

A YOUNG shepherd led out his sheep to graze amongst the hills. The day being very warm, he sat down upon a rock, under the shade of a fir-tree, and fell asleep. Nodding his head backward and forward as he slept, he attracted the attention of an old ram which was grazing *near, and who*, concluding that he was defying

him to combat, retreated a few paces to take breath. The sleeper still continuing to nod, the ram assumed a menacing attitude, and rushing upon him, struck him violently in the face with his horns. The shepherd, suddenly awakened out of an agreeable slumber, sprung up, and seizing in a great rage upon the offender, flung him over the adjacent cliff. The flock no sooner perceived this, than they ran precipitately forward ; and, before they could be prevented, sprung after the ram, and perished miserably upon the rocks. The shepherd now tore his hair, and bitterly repented his folly, but it was all too late.

Second Part.

THE fate of the unfortunate flock spread far and near amongst the hills, and an old shepherd, who was as wise and prudent, as he was honest and civil, took advantage of the circumstance to impart a lesson to his family. Hearing that there was to be a dance at a neighbouring fair, the young people had applied to their father for permission to go. But the old man replied, "I have brought you up in virtue and innocence; and you are very likely to fall into error, and lose both. I do not like that you should go to such places, for there is much wickedness going on, of which now you have no idea." "But a great many people go, and are not afraid," replied the children. "Yes," rejoined the old man, "a great many young people go, but they leave their health, their honour, and their innocence there also. Would you imitate them in this too? Take care that you do not act like the foolish sheep?"

you know that if one jumps over a precipice, all the others follow it. Therefore is it that they are treated as silly animals. But the man who throws himself over a precipice, because others do so, is even more foolish than these poor sheep ; he is without understanding."

XLI.

THE BIRDS' NESTS.

THERE was once a very pretty village, which was surrounded by a forest of fruit-trees. In the spring the blossoms from these trees perfumed the air around, and multitudes of birds built their nests and caroled amongst the branches ; in the autumn, apples, pears, and plums loaded the boughs and regaled the inhabitants. At length some mischievous boys commenced robbing the nests, and in a short time all the birds either died or left the neighbourhood.

Their merry songs no longer resounded among the trees, on the lovely spring mornings ; and the caterpillars, which they had hitherto kept so much under as to prevent their doing any injury to the fruit, now increased so rapidly, and in such numbers, that they devoured every leaf and blossom upon the trees, leaving them bare and withered, as in the midst of winter.

These cruel and mischievous children, now, when too late, perceived, and had to deplore, the consequences of their folly.

XLII.

THE STOLEN HORSE.

A FARMER had his stable broken into one night, and his best horse stolen. After seeking

in vain to discover the thief, he went to a horse bazaar, some fifteen miles off, with the intention of purchasing another. On looking over the horses exposed for sale, he suddenly recognized his own. Seizing the bridle, he exclaimed aloud, "Why, here is my horse, which, three days ago, was stolen from me." "You are greatly mistaken, my friend," replied the man who had the sale of it, with politeness; "I have had this horse several years; it cannot therefore be the one which you have lost, though it may strongly resemble it." The countryman hastily placed his hands before the eyes of the horse, and turning to the man, said, "If you have had the horse so long, you can tell me of which eye he is blind?"

The man, who was in reality the thief, had not particularly examined the horse, and was taken by surprise; but, as he was expected to say something, replied at hazard, "Of the left eye." "You are quite wrong," answered the farmer; "he is not blind of the left eye." "Ah," hastily rejoined the rogue, "in the hurry of speaking I made the mistake. I should have said, his right eye." "It is now evident that you are both a liar and a thief," said the countryman, removing his hands from before the eyes of the horse. "Behold, my friends, the animal is blind of neither eye; I merely put the question in order to expose the thief." The people now began to laugh, and clapping their hands, cried out, "Exposed! exposed!"

The horse-stealer was then obliged to give up the horse, and was conveyed to prison; where he received the just punishment of his iniquity.

XLIII.

THE OX.

A wise father was one day explaining to his children, the perfection to which we might arrive in things, by constant exercise and practice. "I will mention," said he, "an example."

"It is related that there was a man who traveled over various countries with an ox, which he took on his shoulders, and carried up and down the streets, to the astonishment of a large assembly of people, and thereby accumulated large sums of money.

"Upon being asked, how he had obtained such strength, he replied: 'When the ox was very young, I was accustomed to carry it daily some hours upon my shoulders, while walking about the yard. It became every day heavier and heavier but my strength also increased in proportion, so that now I can scarcely be crushed by the weight of an ox.'

"Let this anecdote, my dear children," continued the father, "whether it be false or true, have its due weight with you, and it cannot fail to prove to the eyes of your understanding, the truth of the following old story:—"

XLIV.

THE THIEVES.

Two robbers once carried off a young mule from a neighbouring farm-yard, and drove it away into the forest. While they were disputing about the price, and what was to be the portion of each, *the mule*, unobserved by them, wandered to some distance.

From words they soon came to blows, which being perceived from afar by another thief, he

stole softly upon them, and mounting the mule, rode off with his prize.

The two combatants now too late discerned their folly, and one of them, gazing after the retreating mule, observed to the other, "Behold here the truth of the proverb, That which is obtained easily, is lost as easily."

XLV.

THE APE.

A MONKEY entered one morning unobserved through a window into the apartment of a rich old miser, who had never been known to bestow a farthing upon the poor. Looking inquisitively around the room, he perceived the chest containing the hoard of the miser, which he immediately began casting by handfuls into the street. The people, on seeing the gold and silver flying from the window, assembled in crowds, and commenced fighting and scrambling for the money. The monkey had just cast the last handful into the street, when the miser returned, and flying upon the delinquent in a violent passion, he began beating and abusing him for a fool.

"True," observed a neighbour, who had been attracted to the scene, "the monkey has shown but little sense in casting the money from the window ; but, what is even still more foolish is, to keep it, as you do, concealed in a chest, without making any use of it."

XLVI.

THE ASS.

A GARDENER was one day on his way to market, accompanied by a donkey, so heavily

laden with vegetables that the head of the poor animal was almost entirely hidden beneath them. The road led him near a clump of willows, from which he selected several cuttings for withes, and placing them on the already overladen donkey, he said, "They are so light, they cannot add much to the burthen." A little further on he perceived a woody thicket, and cutting some dozens of small twigs, for his flowers, he said, as he adjusted them to the back of the animal, "These are really so light they cannot even be felt."

As the sun mounted in the horizon, and the heat increased, the gardener drew off his coat, and casting it on the panniers, said, "We are now not far from the town; and this coat, which I can lift with my little finger, can do no harm to the animal." Scarcely, however, had the words escaped his lips, when the poor donkey stumbled against a stone, and fell to the ground, completely crushed under the weight of so heavy a burthen. "Alas! I see now, when too late," lamented the gardener, as he regarded the dying ass, "that we ought never to impose, on either men or animals, a load beyond their strength."

XLVII.

THE BEAR.

IN a wild and woody forest, there roamed a large and savage bear, the terror of the neighbourhood. Two young huntsmen, who happened to alight at an inn near the forest, heard of the ferocious animal, and they said one to the other "We will soon do for the gentleman." Accordingly, they went to the forest, for several successive days, to seek the bear, but without success.

Their money now became exhausted, for they ate and drank the best which the inn afforded. "The skin of the bear will suffice to pay our reckoning," said the one, whose name was Herbert. "Oh ! so it will," rejoined Eustace, for so was the other called. The next day, they again betook themselves to the forest, and while engaged in conversation, the bear suddenly appeared before them, at a few yards distance. Herbert immediately fired, but the ball missed the approaching bear, the huntsman being too much frightened to take a very good aim, so that he was glad to scramble up the nearest tree. Eustace, whose gun had flashed in the pan, had no alternative but to throw himself upon the ground, and hold his breath, as if he was dead. The bear, after sniffing his mouth, his nose, and his ears, calmly walked away : for the animal will never touch a dead body.

Herbert now descended from the tree, and said to his friend, with a half smile, "Tell me, I pray, what the bear whispered just now in your ear ?" "Why," replied Eustace, "he told me never to sell the skin, before you have made sure of the animal."

XLVIII.

THE WOLF.

A LITTLE boy, who was in the habit of telling stories, was placed to watch a flock of sheep, which were grazing in the neighbourhood of a forest.

One day, to amuse himself, he alarmed the village by crying out, "A wolf ! a wolf !" The people all immediately ran to his assistance, with

hatchets and sticks ; but not finding the wolf they shook their heads at the boy, and returned home. The next day he again cried, "A wolf ! a wolf !" and the people again ran to his relief, but in less numbers. On finding out the trick, they became very angry, and returned home with a threat against Master Joseph.

On the third day, a wolf really appeared, and the frightened boy redoubled his cries for help, but not a single person came to his assistance. The terrified sheep scampered away towards the village, but the poor boy, who was less nimble than his fleecy charge, had not run far when he was overtaken by the wolf, torn to pieces, and devoured.

XLIX.

THE PRECIOUS STONES.

A LADY of high rank had given orders at a jeweller's, for a set of ornaments, and for this purpose furnished him with a magnificent assortment of jewels. Robert, the young apprentice, greatly admired the colours and brilliancy of the stones, and amused himself with placing them in the most advantageous positions, and gazing on their varying hues. Suddenly the jeweller discovered that two of the most beautiful stones were missing. His suspicions immediately fell upon the boy, and hastening to the room in which he slept, he examined his trunk, and turned out his pockets. At length he perceived a small hole in the wall, above an old chest of drawers, and on looking into it found the stones. No longer *doubting that Robert had stolen them, he seized him by the collar, and in despite of his denials,*

beat him severely, and telling him that he deserved to be hung, turned him out of doors.

The following day, another of the stones disappeared, and the jeweller, suspecting some trick, determined upon watching for the offender. In a short time he perceived a magpie, which the apprentice had tamed, fly down upon the counter, and picking up one of the stones, carry it away in his beak, and place it in the hole, where the others had been found. The good man now felt very sorry for the punishment he had inflicted upon poor Robert; and sending for him, he reinstated him with honour in his former situation, and made him a handsome present to compensate for the unkind treatment he had received.

L.

THE GOLDEN BAIT.

A YOUNG prince went out one day, to amuse himself with fishing. His rod was formed of ebony, and at the end of the silken line hung a golden bait.

On reaching the stream, he cast the bait into the water, and after a short time drew up a little fish. Again he cast it, and now a large pike greedily swallowed the glittering bait, and tearing away the silken line, swam off with it. "So then," said the prince, "I have only a sorry little fish in exchange for my golden bait. Bring me now an iron one: for only a fool will risk much, where there is but little to be gained."

The words passed into a proverb, and were applied to all ruinous games, but more particularly to lotteries.

LL.

THE PURSE.

NORMAN, the little son of a poor coal-heaver, was seated one day under a tree in the forest weeping bitterly, and praying earnestly to God. A nobleman who happened to be hunting in the wood, hearing the cries of the child, drew near, and enquired what ailed him. The boy replied, that his mother had been ill a very long time, and that his father had sent him to pay the apothecary's bill, but that he had unfortunately lost the purse containing the money on the road. The nobleman, who was dressed in green, and wore a star upon his breast, whispered a few words to a huntsman, by whom he was accompanied, who immediately drew from his pocket a little red silk purse, containing several new golden coins, and shewing it to the boy, he enquired, whether that was the purse he had lost. "Oh ! no," replied the young Norman ; "mine was of very little value, and did not contain such beautiful pieces of money." "It must be this, then," said the huntsman, drawing from his other pocket a little common leather purse. "Ah ! yes, that is mine," cried the boy, receiving it in a transport of joy. "Take it, my child," said the nobleman, kindly ; "and this also," bestowing upon him the other purse ; "the money which it contains is a reward for your honesty and confidence in God."

Second Part.

ANOTHER boy, of the name of Ernest, hearing of the circumstance, repaired to the forest to *watch for the return of the nobleman*. On *perceiving him amongst the trees*, the young rogue

seated himself under a tree, and began shouting and crying out, "Oh, my purse! my purse! I have lost my purse!" The nobleman, again attracted by the cries, approached, and shewing a purse filled with gold, inquired whether that was the one he had lost. "Oh yes, that it is," replied the naughty boy, eagerly extending his hand. Before he could touch it, however, the attendant who stood near, at a sign from his master arrested his hand, saying, "Dare you thus attempt to deceive his Highness?" and getting a bunch of rods, he inflicted a severe whipping upon the young impostor, as a reward for his duplicity.

LII.

GOLD.

Two brothers, named Gustavus and Lewis, went into a distant land to make their fortunes. On arriving, Gustavus obtained a grant of land, which he cultivated with such diligence that in a short time it produced an ample provision of bread.

Lewis, on the contrary, betook himself to the mountains, to seek for gold. After many and great privations, existing only upon roots and the bark of trees, he returned to his brother, laden with a bag of gold. "Behold," he said, "all this gold belongs to me; but I pray you hasten and give me a morsel of bread to eat, for I am perishing with fatigue and hunger." "I will with pleasure," replied Gustavus; "but it must be upon condition that you give me the weight of the bread in gold." The bargain appeared rather a hard one to poor Lewis; but he had no alternative, as he was too much exhausted to proceed any further.

In a few days, Gustavus found himself in possession of all his brother's gold ; and coming to him, he said, "My dear brother, take back all your treasure ; I could not be so cruel as to retain what belongs to you. I only desired to show you that riches cannot give happiness, and that love of occupation is preferable to gold."

LIII.

THE ANSWER TO PRAYER.

DURING the last war, the inhabitants of a distant farm found themselves in a state of the greatest anxiety and terror. The country was overrun with the troops of the enemy, who burnt up the villages through which they passed, and pillaged the poor inhabitants. One night, the farmer and his wife were more than usually alarmed by the intelligence of the enemies' approach, and the constant firing of cannon. Assembling their family, they resolved to pass the night in prayer and watchfulness. The old grandfather implored the Divine protection upon his children, and turning over the leaves of an old Missal, read the following words : "O Saviour of mankind, raise a wall of protection, to defend our habitation from the enemy."

The young farmer, who had listened until now with deep devotion, here observed, that "it was too much to expect that God would raise a wall for their protection." However, the night passed without their being disturbed ; and on venturing out the next morning, what was their astonishment, to find that the high wind had drifted the *snow together*, and formed so high a bank around *the house as completely to hide it from the view of the enemy*, and shut up all access to it.

The grateful family now fell again upon their knees to thank the Lord, and the old grandfather said, "Behold, my children, the Lord has indeed raised a wall for our protection from the enemy!"

LIV.

THE WALLET.

MELCHIDE was going one day into the country, carrying upon his shoulder a wallet well filled. On the road he was joined by Cassimer, to whom he began talking of the faults of his neighbours, taking care, however, to say nothing about his own. Cassimer, to whom the subject was unpleasant, at length said, "It appears to me that you have put all the faults of others in the forepart of your wallet, in order to have them always before your eyes, and to censure them at your pleasure; while you have cast your own in the back part, that they may not darken your view. Take my advice, and turn the wallet round, and you will be much more profited."

LV.

THE STONE.

A rich man quarreled with one of his poor workmen, and in a fit of passion snatched up a stone, and flung it at him. The poor man picked up the missile, and putting it in his pocket, said, "A day may come when I may return it to my enemy." In the course of time the rich man's pride, idleness and prodigality, reduced him to poverty, and he passed the door of the peasant's cottage, covered with rags. The poor workman perceived him, and looking about for the stone, was about to cast it at his enemy; when he sud-

denly recollected himself, and drawing back his hand, he said, “I now see that we should never try to revenge ourselves: for if our enemy is rich and powerful, prudence forbids it; and if he is unfortunate and in distress, it would be cruel. In either case vengeance is unworthy of a man and a Christian.”

LVI.

THE PEARLS.

A TRAVELLER once lost his way in one of those burning, sandy deserts, where you may wander for weeks, without finding a human habitation. When almost exhausted with fatigue and thirst, he discovered a palm-tree at a distance, and on reaching its welcome shade, found a small clear stream at the foot. Seating himself beneath the graceful tree, he perceived a leathern bag lying on the ground: “The Lord be praised!” he exclaimed, stooping to pick it up; “doubtless it is pulse, and I shall not die of hunger.” Upon saying this, he opened the bag eagerly, but to his great disappointment and distress, found that it was filled with pearls.

Second Part.

The poor man appeared likely to perish, while at his side lay the value of thousands of pounds. But he fell upon his knees, and cried with many tears unto the Lord. Suddenly there appeared a Moor upon the desert, mounted upon a camel, who rapidly approached him. The pearls were his. Grateful for the recovery of his treasure, he had *compassion upon the poor traveller, and, relieving him with bread and the most delicious fruits, in-*

vited him to mount the camel, saying, "Behold, my brother, the ways of Providence are wonderful. I considered the loss of my pearls as a great misfortune, when, in reality, nothing could have happened more happily. It was the Lord who ordered it that I was obliged to return into this neighbourhood, and thus be the means of saving your life."

LVII.

THE EXTRAORDINARY DISH.

A MERCHANT one day invited a party of his friends to come and eat lampreys with him, at his country-seat, which was situated by the sea-shore. At dinner, dish succeeded dish, and at length there appeared one closely covered, which the guests immediately concluded contained the promised lampreys ; but upon a servant removing the cover, there was nothing to be seen but several pieces of gold. Astonished, they looked towards their host, when the latter, rising, said, "My friends, the lampreys which I promised you, are this year three times the ordinary price ; and I have this day heard, that there is now in the village, a poor man suffering from illness, and with his family almost in a state of starvation. The cost of this one dish will support these wretched people for at least six months. If you still desire the lampreys, they shall be immediately procured, and can soon be prepared ; but if you will permit this money to be given to the poor man, other fish shall be served, which, although much cheaper, you will find almost as delicate."

The guests applauded the proposition of their

benevolent host, and readily added each a gold piece to those on the dish, which made up a sum not only sufficient to relieve the present distress of the family, but to support them for the next twelvemonths.

LVIII. THE MIRROR.

ANTONIA and Paulina were one day amusing themselves in their mama's dressing-room, when they perceived a mirror upon the window-seat. Leaving their toys, they ran to look at themselves. Antonia, who was very pretty, smiled complacently at her own image ; but Paulina, being much disfigured by the small-pox, began to cry on seeing her face in the glass.

Their mama now approached, saying, “ Ah ! my dear Antonia, be not proud of so passing an advantage as beauty, and take care that you do not destroy it by evil passions : and you, Paulina, be comforted in the reflection, that there are advantages which are preferable to mere personal beauty ; and endeavour, my dear child, to replace that by the beauties of the mind.”

LIX. THE PORTRAIT.

MANY centuries since, there died in a distant part of the country, a merchant, leaving a considerable property. It was generally known, that he had a son absent on a voyage, but no one remembered the features of the youth.

Some time after the death of the old man, there arrived three claimants, each professing to be the only and legitimate heir of the deceased. *The judge, on hearing their different claims,*

commanded a portrait of the merchant, which strongly resembled him, to be produced, and making a mark upon the breast, said, "Whichever of you shall succeed in striking this mark with an arrow, shall be declared the heir."

The first advanced, and his arrow came within half an inch of the mark ; the second followed, and came even nearer ; but when it came to the turn of the third to fire, he trembled, turned pale, and bursting into tears, cast the bow and arrows on the ground, saying, "No, I cannot do it. Much better a thousand times lose my inheritance !"

"Noble young man," exclaimed the judge, "you are the real son and the legitimate heir; these others, who have aimed so well, are but impostors, for a son could not, even though but in a portrait, pierce the breast of a father."

LX.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DRESS.

A SILK-TRADER brought a beautiful assortment of silks for a young lady to select a dress. After admiring one, and then another, she found so much difficulty to decide, that, turning to her mother, she said, "Dear mama, do tell me which colour becomes me most. Is it green, or yellow, or blue?" My dear child," said her mother, smiling, "I think white, which is the colour of innocence, or pink, which is that of modesty."

LXI.

THE CATERPILLARS.

A GARDENER having discovered a nest of caterpillars upon a young apple-tree, desired his son

to destroy them, before they should escape upon the leaves and blossoms to devour them.

Instead of immediately obeying the command of his father, the boy deferred it until the next day ; on the following day he again put it off to the next, and so on for several days.

At length he betook himself to the garden, when, to his dismay, he found the caterpillars had increased in such numbers, that all the trees were covered with them, and their fruit completely destroyed.

There are faults, vices, and evil habits, which are like noxious insects. If we seek in time to correct them, we may easily succeed ; but, if we defer this from day to day, they multiply, and take such deep root, that they are scarcely ever to be eradicated. They despoil the mind of its best attributes, and render it incapable of producing the fruits of virtue and wisdom.

LXII.

THE SILVER WATCH.

A POOR little schoolboy, of the name of Ernest, was sleeping one night on a bench, which served him for a bed, at a mill.

Awaking about midnight, he heard a ticking noise on the wall against which he was lying, and looking up to see what it was, perceived by the light of the moon, that it was a silver watch. A violent desire seized him to steal it, and run away. His conscience forbade his taking what belonged to another ; but the inclination to possess the watch became stronger every moment.

At length feeling that his only safety lay in flight, he hastily arose, and without looking behind him

jumped from the window. After running about fifty steps, he began to repent that he had not taken the watch away with him, and had some thoughts of returning for it. Happily, however, his good angel prevailed, and he continued his journey. The moon, which had hitherto lighted him on his way, now sunk behind the mountains ; and the night became so dark that he wandered into a marsh.

After some difficulty, he extricated himself, and scrambled up a height, where, overcome with fatigue, he fell fast asleep. At daybreak he was awakened by the most discordant cries, and on looking up, perceived, with unmixed horror, that he had gone to sleep under a gallows, where a man had been hanged for stealing. The cries which had awakened him, proceeded from a multitude of voracious crows who were assembled around the dead body. "Behold !" whispered a voice within the terrified boy, "what would have been ultimately your fate, had you once entered upon the path of stealing." Struck with terror, and gratitude to God, who had saved him from this great danger, Ernest fell upon his knees, and offered up his sincere thanks and praises for His great mercy.

LXIII.

THE SHELLS.

A YOUNG man of the name of Florian, the servant of a waggoner, brought upon himself a dangerous illness from drinking spirits.

The doctor who attended him, said, "You must give up drinking, or it will cause your death. Brandy is absolutely poison to youth." "I cannot

give it up," replied the patient. "I am now too much accustomed to the use of it. I drink every day as much as fills this bottle." "Well," rejoined the doctor, "I must consider of some remedy for you."

The following day he returned with a very pretty little box filled with nice clean shells, one of which he desired the sick man to put every day into the bottle of brandy, and on no account to remove them; by this means the spirit would do him no harm. The man, concluding there was some virtue in the shells which would counteract the evil qualities of the brandy, did not hesitate to follow the directions of the doctor. In this way, he drank every day a few drops less, without missing them, until by the time the bottle was filled with shells, he was entirely cured of his pernicious habit.

LXIV.

THE SACK OF EARTH.

A RICH man, who had a very beautiful garden, took it into his head to enlarge it, and for this purpose deprived a poor widow of her single field. While taking his accustomed walk, he saw the woman arrive, carrying in her hand an empty sack. Approaching him, she said, "I have come to beg you will allow me to take away of my paternal property as much earth as will fill this sack." "Certainly; I cannot refuse so foolish a request," replied the rich man.

After filling the sack, the woman said, "I have *yet another* request to make, which is, that you *will* place the sack upon my shoulders." The *rich man*, who was unaccustomed to exertion of

any kind, refused for some time ; but at length, wearied with the importunity of the woman, he essayed to raise the sack to her shoulders. "It is quite impossible," he exclaimed, throwing it down, after a fruitless effort ; "it is too heavy."

"If the sack is too heavy for you," replied the poor widow, earnestly, "how will you be over-powered in eternity by the weight of the field, which contains more than a thousand sacks of earth." The unjust man was struck by the remark, and without loss of time returned the field to its rightful owner.

LXV.

THE GOLD SNUFF-BOX.

THE Colonel of a regiment one day exhibited to some of his officers whom he had invited to dinner, a gold snuff-box which he had that day purchased. After it had been sufficiently admired, he replaced it in his pocket. A short time had elapsed, when having an occasion for a pinch of snuff, he sought for the box, but it was no where to be found ; "Gentlemen," said he to the officers, "have the goodness to look lest any of you have put it by mistake into your pockets."

The company immediately arose and turned their pockets out ; but the box was not to be found. One young ensign alone kept his seat, saying, with evident embarrassment, "I pledge my word of honour, which ought to be sufficient, that I have not the box."

The officers separated, shrugging up their shoulders, and evidently looking upon the young man as the thief. On the following day the ensign was summoned to the presence of the Colonel,

who said to him, “The snuff-box is found ; it had slipped through the lining of my coat-pocket. Now tell me what was your motive for refusing to turn out your pocket yesterday, after all the others had done so.”

“Sir,” replied the officer, “it is only to yourself that I would reveal the reason. My parents are poor, and I allow them the half of my pay ; I therefore never eat a hot dinner. Yesterday, when you did me the honour of inviting me to your table, I had already provided my dinner, which was then in my pocket. Judge what would have been my confusion, had I, in turning out my pockets, exhibited my bread and cheese to your company.” “Noble young man,” exclaimed the Colonel, touched with this avowal, “remember, that from henceforth your cover shall always be placed at my table, that you may have the means of better assisting your parents.” Saying this, he conducted him into the dining-room, and there, before the other officers, presented him with the snuff-box as a mark of his esteem.

LXVI.

THE TREASURE-SEEKER.

THE evening was closing in, when a stranger suddenly presented himself before a peasant of the name of Leonardo. He carried under his arm a large book, and a little white wand in his hand. “I have come,” said he to the countryman, “to inform you of a great secret. A large sum in gold and silver, is hidden in one of your fields. If you will give me a tenth part, I will dig up the treasure, and you will possess a million or more.” Leonardo agreed to the bargain, and at

midnight they repaired secretly to the field in question, provided with shovels and wheelbarrows, and began silently to dig up the earth. After some time, they discovered a large chest, which they conveyed home. On arriving, the stranger examined the chest in all directions, touched it in several places with the wand, and looked every now and then into his book, repeating several unintelligible sentences. Shaking his head in a thoughtful manner, he said, "If we would prevent the treasure contained in this chest from becoming cinders, we must use some secret and particular drugs, before opening it. There is no one who keeps them, but an old apothecary, who resides about ten miles from here, and he will not part with them under twenty ducats." Leonardo, who had just received that sum for a horse which he had sold, in the joy of his heart, immediately brought it forth and counted out the amount to the magician, who set out without a moment's delay.

Having waited until the following day, the peasant became impatient at the continued absence of the stranger, and without further loss of time, broke open the box. But alas! it contained neither gold nor silver, or even cinders. It was filled with flints, and the following lines written upon a slip of paper lay upon the top :

"The fool purchases wisdom."

LXVII.

THE SPECTRE.

MARTIN, a young countryman, glided one night into the garden which belonged to the Chateau of

Englebert, and filling two large sacks with fruit, was about to convey one of them to his cottage, just as the neighbouring clock struck midnight. He had gained the wall, and was walking rapidly on, when he suddenly perceived near him a man dressed in black, who appeared to be complacently carrying the other sack. Uttering a cry of terror, he threw down his burden, and ran precipitately off. The man did the same, following him until he reached the end of the wall, when he disappeared. The next day Martin could talk of nothing but the horrible spectre, taking care, however, to say nothing of the theft which he had committed. In the course of the day, he was summoned before the mayor, and accused of having robbed the garden of the chateau; the sacks were produced, and proved to be marked with his father's name. The judge immediately sentenced him to be imprisoned for six months, explaining to him, that the black spectre which he had seen, was his own shadow, reflected by the moon upon the newly whitened wall.

Thus is it always with the wicked; the noise of a leaf terrifies them, and their own shadow puts them to flight.

LXVIII.

THE WISE MOTHER.

A CERTAIN prince was one day surprised by a storm while out hunting in the forest, and forced to take shelter in a neighbouring cottage. It happened to be the dinner-hour of the poor people, and the children were sitting round the table, upon which was placed a large wooden bowl filled with soup. They all looked healthy

and rosy, and eagerly devoured the food, which the mother was dealing out to them. After regarding them for a short time, the prince said with surprise, "How is it possible, my good woman, that your children can eat such gross food with so good an appetite, and have also such fine healthy colours?" "I will tell you," replied the prudent mother; "there are three kinds of seasoning which they have to their food. First, they earn their dinners by their labour, and they get nothing until the hour of their meals, to which consequently they bring a good appetite; and lastly, I have accustomed them to be satisfied with what they have, by keeping them ignorant of delicacies."

LXIX.

THE FARM-HOUSE.

OLD William was always quarreling with his neighbours, and passed his life in law-suits. One day he discovered that his next-door neighbour was opening a window in the wall, which separated their farms. This he determined to prevent, and threatened to summon him before a magistrate. Several of his friends, upon hearing this, came to him, and said, "Take care how you begin a law-suit again at your time of life, for you will certainly lose your cause." Old William replied angrily, at the same time striking his clutched fist upon the table, that he was determined his neighbour should not overlook his farm-yard, and that he should gain his cause.

Accordingly, he entered an action against him, lost his cause, and was obliged to pay the costs, which, with other debts that he had contracted, *so completely ruined him, that he was obliged to*

sell his farm. Michael, the son of a rich farmer, became its possessor, which gave the neighbours occasion to say, in mockery, to old William, "You have lost your cause, but obtained your desire, for it is no longer into your farm that the neighbour looks, but into that of Michael."

LXX.

THEPIOUSSHEPHERD.

ONE beautiful evening in May, when the fields were covered with flowers and verdure, a young shepherd, named Wenderlin, stood beside a thicket watering his sheep upon the mill-side. His countenance was sad, and large tears were rolling down his rosy cheeks. Aloïsa, the little son of the forester, who was returning home, stopped on perceiving the distress of his friend, and enquired kindly, "what caused his tears." "Ah!" replied Wenderlin, "I have just seen a horrible toad hidden in the thicket." "Why should that grieve you?" observed Aloïsa, smiling. "I will tell you," rejoined the young shepherd. "On beholding this animal, I thought, what a wretched creature!—it crawls upon the earth, is hated by men, and knows not a Creator; it passes the greatest portion of its life in dark, dismal holes, or in the dirt and mire, until it perishes, or is destroyed. And I have the form and stature of man, and am well to look at; I can go whithersoever I please, and admire the heavens and the earth, the flowers and the trees; I know the *Creator*, and that I have an immortal soul; and, notwithstanding all this, I have never gratefully, from my heart, acknowledged the mercies of the

Eternal. It was this ingratitude that so afflicted me, that I could not restrain my tears."

Aloïsa was much affected on hearing this explanation, and never to the day of his death forgot the words of the pious young shepherd ; but would frequently, in his old age, repeat them to his grand-children, adding that "if the most revolting animals are apparently without their use, they may at least teach us to appreciate our privileges as men ; privileges, by which God hath designed to elevate us in this world, to the highest rank among his creatures."

LXXI.

THE THEFT.

Two laborers were one day employed in conveying wood to their master's farm. After unloading several waggons, they were sent into the kitchen to rest themselves, while the cook went into the cellar to draw them a pot of beer. During her absence, the knavish Nicholas, the elder of the two, stole a piece of meat out of the oven, and concealed it in the pocket of his companion, whose name was George, saying, "If the cook misses it, you can swear that you did not touch it, and I, that I have it not ; thus, we shall escape detection." A few moments after, the cook returned, and looking into the oven, discovered the theft ; and, sternly regarding the two rogues, she said, "What has become of the meat ?" They both immediately gave the answer upon which they had agreed. But the cook was not to be deceived, and approaching them, she said, with increased severity, "You, Nicholas, stole the meat, for behold the grease upon the sleeve of

your coat ; and you, George, have it in your pocket, for the grease is running down the side of your coat. Blush at the wickedness of your conduct, and tremble at your falsehood. Had I even not discovered the theft, do you not know, that it could not have escaped the eye of God, who sees into the hearts of all, and will not allow wickedness to go unpunished ?" The two rogues were now obliged to give up the stolen meat, and met the punishment which they so well deserved.

LXXII.

THE LITTLE LOAF.

IN a time of great scarcity, a rich, benevolent man assembled at his house all the poorest children of his neighbourhood, and showing them a large basket filled with bread, said, "Behold, this basket contains a loaf for each of you ; and every day you shall find the same here, until it pleases God to send us better times." He had scarcely finished speaking, when the half-starved children rushed on the bread, and commenced scrambling for the largest loaves. After they had each possessed themselves of one, they hastened away, without even thanking their benefactor. One little girl alone, whose appearance, though clean and neat, indicated great poverty, waited patiently until the others had all helped themselves, and then, approaching humbly, she took the smallest loaf which remained in the basket, and, gratefully kissing the hand of the rich man, retired quietly. On the following day, the children behaved *equally ill* ; and the poor little girl, whose name was *Mary*, obtained a loaf which was scarcely

half the size of the others. On arriving at home, she gave the bread to her mother, who was ill in bed. The good woman broke open the loaf, and discovered that it contained a number of new silver pieces of money. Surprised, she summoned the child, and desired her to take the money back to the gentleman, as there was probably some mistake. The little girl obeyed; but the benevolent man refused to receive back the money, saying, "It was not accidental, my dear child; I placed the money there, expressly as a reward for you. Continue always as gentle and contented as you are now. They who prefer the smallest loaf, rather than dispute for a larger, will always ensure a blessing on their house."

LXXIII.

THE BROKEN HORSE-SHOE.

A COUNTRYMAN was one day travelling to a distant village, accompanied by his son, the little Thomas. Perceiving a broken horse-shoe, lying in the road, he desired him to pick it up, and put it into his pocket. But the little boy pertly answered, "It was not worth the trouble of stooping for." The good man made no further remark, but, picking up the horse-shoe, placed it in his pocket, and took it with him to the next village, where he sold it to a farrier for a penny, with which he bought a pound of cherries. As they continued their journey, the day became extremely warm, the sun shone with unclouded brilliancy, and they could discern neither house nor shelter in the distance. Poor Thomas suffered intense thirst, and walked with difficulty.

At length, his father dropped, as if accidentally a cherry ; the boy picked it up eagerly, and put it into his mouth. After a short time, another cherry was dropped, and as greedily devoured. This continued, until all the cherries had found their way into Thomas's mouth, when his father turned to him and said, laughing, " You now see that if you had only obeyed, and stopped once, to pick up the horse-shoe, you would not have been obliged to stoop at least a hundred times for the cherries."

LXXIV.

THE CROWN-PIECE.

A PIous farmer had a servant who gave way to violent fits of anger, and swore fearfully. The good man endeavoured by various means to cure him of this wicked habit, but all in vain. " I is impossible," he would reply to the gentle expostulations of his master ; " the other servant give me so much trouble, and the animals are so obstinate."

One morning, the farmer said to him, " Look here, Ben ; I will give you this beautiful new crown-piece, if you continue the whole of the day without once getting angry or swearing."

The man gladly accepted the offer. His fellow-servants hearing the arrangement, agreed together to make him lose the crown-piece ; and accordingly they did and said every thing to make him angry ; but not a word escaped him which could be interpreted to his disadvantage.

In the evening, his master presented him with the crown-piece, saying, " Do you not blush at having been able to restrain your temper for

miserable piece of money, when you have refused to do so from love to God, who hath given you the commandment?"

Ben was so struck with this rebuke, that he retired with shame from the presence of the farmer, and imploring the help of God, succeeded in correcting himself of his wicked habits, and became as mild and gentle, as he had hitherto been irritable and quarrelsome.

LXXV.

THE SHEPHERD'S PIPE.

THERE was once a certain king, whose treasurer had been elevated to that important trust from the simple occupation of a shepherd. Jealous of his elevation, the courtiers around the throne accused him of embezzling the public money, and hoarding it; adding, that he kept his wealth concealed in a cave, provided with an iron door. On hearing this, the king visited the treasurer, and having searched the palace, observed the iron door. Commanding it to be opened, he was surprised, on entering, to find only a wicker chair, and a common wooden table, upon which lay a shepherd's pipe, crook and scrip. The window of the cave looked out upon a verdant meadow and hills, covered with sheep. The treasurer, who had accompanied him, now said, "In my youth, O king, I kept sheep, and from thence I was elevated by you to my present situation. From that period until now, I have daily passed an hour in this cave, in recollections of my early life, and in repeating the songs of praise to my Creator, which I was then in the habit of singing, while occupied in peacefully

watering my flock. Oh! permit me to return to my paternal fields, where I have enjoyed a purer pleasure than I can ever find in your palace."

The king, who was very angry with the calumniators of this good man, now warmly embraced him, and implored him not thus to abandon him.

LXXVI.

THE TWO TRAVELLERS.

Two young men were one day travelling quietly together, when one of them perceived a purse filled with gold, lying on the road. Springing forward, he seized it with an exclamation of pleasure. "Comrade," said Burkhard, "let us share the purse."

"No, indeed," replied Albert; "I found it, consequently it belongs to me." Saying which, he placed the purse with a laugh in his pocket.

They had not proceeded far when a robber started out of the wood, armed with a sword. Albert became pale as death, and turning to Burkhard he said, "Comrade, let us support each other, and one man will scarcely overcome two."

"Nay," replied Burkhard, "the robber will get nothing from me; you retained all the money, and must therefore defend it alone." Overcome by the robber, Albert was glad to escape with his life, and instead of the purse, he returned home covered with wounds.

LXXVII.

THE COAL-HEAVER AND THE BLEACHER.

A COAL-HEAVER said one day to a bleacher, *who was seeking for a lodging*, "Come, my friend,

and lodge with me; my house is large enough to receive your goods, as well as my own." "Thank you," replied the bleacher, "but your coals would blacken the linen which I am at so much trouble in bleaching." "You are right," rejoined the man of coals, laughing; "black and white will never do together. Yes, what would arrive to the linen amongst the coals, tarnishing its purity, is what befalls the pure, who dwell amongst the wicked."

LXXVIII.

THE BLIND MAN.

A BLIND man, of the name of André, was one day returning from church, slowly and carefully guiding his steps with a stick. A young and mischievous boy observing him, said, laughing, "I bet ten crowns, that I run faster than you." "I will accept your wager," replied André, "provided you give me the choice of time and place."

The boy again laughing, agreed, and called the persons present to witness the agreement. "Very well," rejoined the blind man; "at midnight we shall see which of us will arrive first at the next town." Accordingly, at the hour of twelve, they commenced their journey. The night was dark and tempestuous, and the road lay through a thick forest. André, to whom the night and day were alike, arrived before the dawn at the town; but Mebog having lost himself in the forest, wandered about in the gloom, sometimes striking his head against the branches of the trees, sometimes stumbling over the roots, until the dawn enabled him to extricate himself and return to the town. The sun had risen when he arrived,

tired and ashamed; and was obliged to pay the ten crowns, the witnesses all declaring, "He deserved a much heavier punishment."

LXXIX.

THE PIOUS MOTHER AND HER SONS.

A PIOUS widow had, from her infirmities and illness, been for some time deprived of the pleasure of attending the service of God in his temple. This was to her a severe privation, and often on the sabbath, she would say to her sons, "Oh! how happy it would make me, if I could go to church to-day; but alas! I am too weak and infirm, and the distance is too great from here to the village, for me to walk." After thus speaking, the good woman would remain for some time silent and sad; for, she felt the privilege and advantage of religious communion, and desired much to join in it. Her two sons, whom she had reared in the love and fear of the Lord, and who sought every means of evincing their love and gratitude to her, consulted together how they might gratify her desire. After a short consideration, they adjusted two poles to an arm-chair, thus forming a kind of sedan, in which they placed their mother, and carefully conveyed her to the church, which was situated about a mile from the farm they occupied amongst the hills. The piety of the good woman, and the filial devotion of her children, affected the villagers, and they assembled and scattered flowers on their way.

True piety is the first of virtues, and the only source of happiness; and by and through it *only*, can we attain real wisdom, and merit the *love and gratitude* of our children.

LXXX.

THE HERMIT.

A YOUNG prince, who was as vain of his personal appearance, as of his rank and wealth, was one day out in a distant part of the country hunting. In the most solitary part of the mountains, he discovered a hermitage, at the door of which sat a venerable man, who appeared engaged in examining a skull, which he held in his hand. Approaching the hermit, with affected gravity, the prince said, jestingly, "Good father, wherefore do you regard that skull? What is it you expect to discover in it?"

"I was endeavouring, my son," replied the old man, gravely, "to ascertain whether it was the skull of a prince or of a beggar, but I cannot make it out!"

LXXXI.

THE TRANCE.

A YOUNG lady died suddenly; her friends, who were greatly distressed, caused her to be dressed in white, and braiding her hair with pearls, they placed a handsome ring on her finger, and committed her to the tomb. The following night, the sexton, who had observed the ornaments, returned to the church, with a small lantern, and having opened the grave, commenced robbing the corpse. Just as he had possessed himself of the pearls, the dead body rose, and regarding him fixedly, said, in a deep sepulchral voice, "*What is it you want?*"

Struck with terror, the thief took to flight, leaving the pearls on the ground behind him.

The young lady, who had been only in ^a

trance, now left the tomb, and taking up the lantern, which the sexton had dropped, returned home. On seeing her, the disconsolate parents were at first greatly affrighted, but their terror was soon changed into joy and gratitude.

LXXXII.

THE PILGRIM.

THERE was once a rich nobleman, who dwelt in a magnificent castle, of which there is now scarcely a vestige remaining. He expended large sums of money in adorning his house and grounds, but he gave little to the poor and distressed. One day, there appeared at the gates a poor pilgrim, who implored hospitality; but the nobleman refused, replying with haughtiness, that the castle was not an inn. "Answer me three questions," rejoined the pilgrim, "and I will then proceed on my journey." "On that consideration, I cannot hesitate," said the nobleman, scornfully. "Who inhabited this castle before you?" questioned the traveller. "My father," replied the nobleman. "Who before him?" "My grandfather." "And who will inhabit it after you?" "My son, if God permits." "Well then," continued the pilgrim, "if each of you have inhabited the castle only for a certain period of time, and one gives place to the other, you can surely be only guests! Spend not your wealth, therefore, in embellishing, with so much magnificence, what you can possess only for so short a period; but rather be charitable to the poor, and acquire an inheritance in heaven, which will endure for ever." Struck with the words of the pilgrim, the nobleman now received him hospitably, and

from thenceforth shewed more charity to the poor and distressed.

LXXXIII.

THE CANNIBAL.

Two little boys, having lost their way in a dark, gloomy forest, sought shelter in a little road-side inn for the night. About midnight, they were awakened by voices in the adjoining room, and, listening, they heard a man say, "Do not forget to clean out the great cauldron, to-morrow morning, as I intend killing those two little rogues which arrived last night from the town." Seized with terror, the children whispered in an agony, one to the other, "O heaven ! the man is a cannibal." And, getting up softly, they jumped out of the window. On trying, however, to walk, they found that they had so strained their ankles, they could scarcely move ; moreover, the gate of the court-yard was firmly fastened. Creeping into the stable, where the pigs were kept, they passed the night in the most dreadful fear. In the morning, the inn-keeper entered the stable, and sharpening his knife, said, "Come out, you rogues ; your last hour has sounded." The two children uttered the most terrific shrieks, and falling on their knees, implored him to spare their lives.

The good man regarded them with astonishment, and enquired, "why they took him for a murderer." The frightened children now told him what they had overheard him say in the night. "Foolish things," replied the inn-keeper, "I never thought about you ; the rogues I meant were our two little pigs, which we brought

yesterday from the town. Behold the consequence of listening at doors. Never then forget those words :—A dishonest acquisition brings its own punishment.'

LXXXIV.

THE SMILES OF THE DYING.

AROUND the bed of a dying patriarch, were assembled his children and his grand-children. He appeared to sleep, and while they regarded him, he smiled three times with his eyes closed. On awakening, one of his sons enquired the reason of his smiling. "The first time," replied the holy man, "I repassed in memory all the pleasures which I have tasted in the world, and I could not refrain from smiling at the blindness of man, in regarding for a moment such bubbles, as things of importance. The second time, I recalled all the tribulations of my life, and I rejoiced to think they had lost their thorns, and that I was about now to gather the roses ; and the third time, I thought of death, and smiled at the terror with which men view this angel of God, who comes to end all their sufferings, and conduct them to the abodes of happiness eternal."

LXXXV.

REAL FRIENDS.

A FATHER was one day conversing with his children upon the subject of eternity, when he related to them the following narrative : "The governor of a certain island was recalled by his *master*, to give an account of his administration. *Such of his friends* from whom he expected the *most*, paid him not the least attention ; others, upon

whom he reckoned much also, merely accompanied him to the vessel ; while those whom he had not at all considered, followed him to the foot of the throne, and interceding for him, obtained the grace and favour of the king."

"Man, my children," continued the wise father, "possesses in this world three descriptions of friends ; he seldom learns to appreciate them aright, until he is summoned to give an account of his works. The first of these, is money and the good things of this life, which leave him at his death ; the second, is friends and relations, who accompany him only to the tomb ; and the third, is the works he has done in faith ; these follow him even to the footstool of God. How foolish then is that man who neglects such real and faithful friends."

LXXXVI.

THE INHERITANCE.

A RICH merchant made over into the hands of his children all that he possessed, on the condition that they would provide him during his life with whatever he should require. For some time all went on very well ; but by degrees, his family began to treat him with unkindness, reluctantly affording him the necessary food, and scarcely furnishing him with suitable clothing. "Ah," sighed the unhappy father, "I did wrong in making over my possessions to my children ; it were better that they should receive of me, than that I should from them."

Just at this time, most opportunely, an old friend paid him a debt of twenty thousand crowns, which he had given up all idea of. Causing a

strong chest to be made, he deposited within it his treasure. His family now began to treat him with all possible kindness, in hopes of obtaining this money also; but the old man remained inflexible; and they consoled themselves with the hope of ultimately possessing it. At length the father died, and they hastened to open the chest, and divide the treasure. Great, however, was their disappointment, to find that he had secretly bestowed the money upon an asylum for orphans, and filled the chest with bricks, leaving within it the following memorandum:—"Depend only on yourselves."

LXXXVII.

THE PIous PRINCE.

A YOUNG and pious prince, was driven by an enemy from his dominions. Disguising himself, he fled, accompanied by only one old and faithful servant. Arriving, late one night, at a farmhouse amongst the mountains, he retired to rest. His funds were nearly exhausted, and he was tormented with fears of the enemy; unable to sleep, he rose from his bed, and falling on his knees, prayed fervently for deliverance. In the agony of his feelings, he sighed deeply, and exclaimed, "O my God! help an unfortunate prince!" The words were overheard by the farmer; and the following day, he said to the servant, "I know that your master is a prince: tell me the cause of his distress." The servant, taken by surprise, acknowledged that he was right, imploring him, at the same time, not to *betray them*. On the morrow, when the prince was about to depart, the farmer respectfully

approached him, and with deep emotion, said, "Your prayer of last night, discovered to me your situation. Do not therefore refuse to oblige me ; but accept these twenty pieces of gold, until your fortune assumes a more favourable appearance. Moreover, I will undertake to conduct you, by a safe path, to your place of destination." The prince was much affected by the words of the honest peasant, but much more at the goodness of God, who, without an apparent miracle, had so miraculously granted his prayer. Accompanied by the farmer, he reached in safety the kingdom of a neighbouring prince, with whom he was connected. Grateful for the assistance he had afforded him, he presented his deliverer to his friend, and repaying him the twenty pieces of gold, handsomely rewarded him also.

LXXXVIII.

THE WONDERFUL CASKET.

THE widow of farmer Hans found, that at the end of a year after her husband's death, her goods had considerably decreased ; unable to account for the circumstance, she resolved upon consulting an anchorite, who dwelt in the adjacent forest. Accordingly, one morning, she arrived at the door of the hermitage, and, informing the holy man of her distress, requested that he would point out to her some remedy for the evil. The recluse, who was an old man of a merry disposition, requested her to wait a few moments. After a short time, he returned, and presented her with a little casket closely sealed, saying, "You must, for the space of a whole twelve-month, carry this casket three times during both

night and day, through your kitchen, your cellar, your stables, and every corner of your house ; and I promise you that your affairs will assume a more favourable appearance. At the end of the year, return to me the casket.” The good woman, who reckoned much upon the charm which was concealed in the box, failed not to obey the directions she had received. The following day, on taking the casket into the cellar, she surprised the man-servant helping himself to a bottle of the best wine ; late in the evening, on proceeding to the kitchen, she found the servants regaling themselves with a party of their friends ; and on visiting the stables, discovered the poor cows up to their haunches in dirt, and the horses supplied with straw, instead of hay.

Every day, she found out some new abuse, and thus was enabled to correct it. At the end of the twelvemonth, she went with the casket to the hermit, and requested he would permit her to retain it another year, for that it undoubtedly contained a great charm. The recluse, laughing, replied, “I cannot let you have the casket any longer, but you may have the charm it contains ;” and opening it, he showed her a slip of paper, upon which was written the following line : “Watch over your household.”

LXXXIX.

THE NAIL WANTED.

A COUNTRYMAN was one day saddling his horse, to proceed to the next town, when he discovered that there was a nail wanting in one of *his* shoes. “One nail more or less can make no difference, at all events,” said he. On the

road, however, the loose shoe fell off : " If there was a forge near, I would have the horse shoed ; but he will nevertheless get on very well with the three remaining." But some-time after, the horse trod upon a stone, and became quite lame ; and a little further on, two robbers rushed out of the forest, and the improvident countryman, unable to make his escape, was compelled to give up both his horse and portmanteau, glad to have his life spared.

Obliged to pursue his journey on foot, he said, sorrowfully : " No, I should never have imagined that the loss of one nail would have entailed on me such severe consequences."

Equally applicable to eternal as well as present circumstances, was this observation of the poor man.

XC.

VALENTINE AND PHILIP.

VALENTINE, a boy of a volatile and thoughtless spirit, conducted his little brother Philip down to the river side, where, perceiving a boat lying by the water-side, he entered with the child, and unloosed it from its moorings. The rapidity of the current soon drove the wherry against the rocks, and dashed it to pieces.

Valentine swam around the rocks, but could not succeed in climbing up them ; while poor little Philip was hurried down the stream. A fisherman, hearing the cries of the child, jumped into the river, and at the risk of his own life saved the drowning infant.

Second Part.

WHILST the good fisherman was occupied with the little Philip, Valentine perished miserably. The people assembled on the shore, now enquired of the man, "Why, as it was evident he could have saved the life of Valentine with more ease than that of Philip, he had risked his own for the latter?"

The old fisherman replied, "Valentine, who has just perished, used often to steal my shrimps, and also took a pleasure in destroying my nets; while the good little Philip, on the contrary, would bring his dinner, and give me his half-pence, when, during a severe illness, I was unable to do any thing to obtain a livelihood. How then could I do otherwise than save the life of this excellent child?"

XCI.

THE PIG-STEALER.

Two men arrived late one evening at a small village inn, with a bear, which they were exhibiting. The landlord, who had that morning sold his pig, locked up the bear in the empty stable. About midnight, a thief, who had ascertained where the pig was usually kept, opened the door gently, and in the darkness, seized the bear, instead of the pig which he had hoped to have found there. Growling fearfully, the bear flew upon the wretched man, and throwing his claws around him, embraced him so closely that he was unable to move. Terror and pain drew from the delinquent such loud cries, that the *whole neighbourhood* was alarmed, and rushed to the stables. With much difficulty, the master of the furious animal succeeded in extricating the bleeding and much injured rogue from the claws

of the angry bear ; from which he only escaped to be conveyed to prison.

XCII.

THE BEGGAR.

IN a time of great scarcity, a stranger passed through a village, begging. Her attire denoted great poverty, but was clean and neat. From some of the houses she was turned roughly away, while the others scarcely bestowed any thing upon her. One poor man alone invited her into his cottage, to warm herself, for the weather was bitterly cold. The wife of the peasant, no less benevolent than her husband, presented her with a large piece from a cake, which she had just drawn from the oven. The following day, all those from whom the stranger had begged, were invited to a supper at the great house of the village. On entering the dining-room, the guests perceived a small table, covered with the rarest viands ; and a larger, upon which was a number of plates, with here and there a small piece of musty bread, a few potatoes, or a handful of scraps. The lady of the house now addressed them, saying, "In me you behold the stranger, who yesterday implored your charity. In a time of such distress to the poor, I wished to put your benevolence to the trial. These poor people," she added, turning to the peasant and his wife, "treated me with the best they had, and they shall now sup at my table, and from henceforth receive from me an annual pension. You must have the goodness to content yourselves with the gifts you bestowed upon me, and which you behold upon those plates ; and above all, forget not, that thus will you be repaid in another world."

XCIII.

THE PROUD YOUNG LADY.

A YOUNG lady, whose name was Gertrude, resided at a magnificent chateau, and was exceedingly proud of her rank and consequence. Maria, the daughter of a poor mason, came to her one day, saying, "My father, who has been very ill, is now dying, and requests you will come to him, as he has something important to reveal to you." "A poor wretch like him, must certainly have much to communicate which can interest me," replied the young lady, ironically. "Go away, for I shall assuredly not enter your miserable abode." A short time after, Maria returned again, quite out of breath, crying, "Oh ! Miss ! pray run quickly: your mother, during the war, caused a quantity of gold and silver to be concealed in a wall, and commanded my father to reveal the place to no one but yourself, upon your attaining your twenty-first year. But death, which is now approaching, will not permit of his concealing it any longer." Gertrude now hastened with all speed to the cottage, but at the moment she entered, the poor man breathed his last.

Almost wild with anger and disappointment, she caused several of the walls in the different parts of the chateau to be pulled down, but could never discover the hidden treasure: and, moreover, had the bitter mortification of feeling that her pride had disturbed the last moments of so honest a man, and deprived her of much wealth.

THE END.

WORKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED
BY
BINN S A N D G O O D W I N , B A T H

In post 8vo. elegant, with Frontispiece and engraved Title, price 15s.
WILD FLOWERS AND THEIR TEACHINGS :
Illustrated by 36 *real SPECIMENS*, carefully preserved.

As only a limited number of copies of this unique and interesting work can be completed during the year, early application is requested, directed to Bins and Goodwin Bath: giving the name of the Country Bookseller through whom the Book can be sent; as Subscribers will be supplied according to priority of their orders.

London: Simpkin & Co.

In a handsome post 8vo. volume, with Frontispiece and Vignette, price 5s.

THE CURATE OF LINWOOD :
OR, THE REAL STRENGTH OF THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.
BY G. C. H.

"We cordially recommend this truly elegant volume to the notice of all our readers."—*Christian Mother's Magazine*.

"Not only well conceived, but beautifully written."—*Scottish Guardian*.

"A useful weapon in the armoury of evangelical religion."—*Edinburgh Advertiser*.

"It is with no small degree of satisfaction, that we welcome so able a pen in the support of the plain doctrines of the New Testament."—*Edinburgh Evening Post*.

London: Seeley and Co.

In foolscap 8vo. price 2s. 6d.
THE COMING OF THE LORD
TO JUDGE THE EARTH,
DOCTRINALLY AND PRACTICALLY CONSIDERED :
BY THE REV. EDWARD GILLSON, B.A.,

Curate of Lyncombe and Widcombe, Bath.

London, Nisbet and C

One volume, 12mo. cloth, price 5s. 6d.

LECTURES DELIVERED DURING LENT
AND PASSION WEEK, 1845,
In Kensington Chapel, Bath;
BY THE REV. E. D. RHODES, B.D.,
Rector of Ermington.

London, Nisbet and C

Just ready, fcp. 8vo. cloth, interleaved, price 2s.

THE CHRISTIAN'S DAILY GUIDE TO PRAYER
AND STUDY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Just published, neat cloth, price 1s.

EXAMPLE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SABBATH-SCHOOL
TEACHERS:

A MEMORIAL OF A DEPARTED SISTER

BY THE REV. THOMAS PAGE, M.A.,

Perpetual Curate of Christ Church, Virginia Water, Egham.

Second Edition, price 6d.

A CATECHISM ON THE ARTICLES OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND;

Broken into Short Questions and Answers.

BY THE REV. J. MATTHEWS, M.A.,
Curate of Langley Burrell, Wilts.

"It seems to me well calculated for usefulness."—*Bishop of Winchester.*
"A very little book, of very great value."—*Church and State Gazette.*

In the press, Second Edition. In a neat Pocket Volume, price 2s. 6d.

THE PSALMS:

Arranged in Daily Portions, for Reading through twice in the
Course of the Year. With Short Suggestions for applying
them to Personal Devotion.

BY THE REV. A. R. C. DALLAS, M.A.,
Rector of Wonston, Author of "Cottager's Guide to the New Testament," &
In this Edition, by a novel arrangement, the authorized Marginal
Readings are introduced with the Text.

London; Nisbet and

Preparing for publication, in Monthly Numbers, price 1s. 6d.

THE HOLY BIBLE,

Arranged in portions for Daily Reading; Historically Harmonized; with
Suggestions for

A MENTAL COMMENTARY, .

Or, Hints to assist in the intelligent and practical reading of the Scripture

BY THE REV. A. R. C. DALLAS, M.A.

In demy 8vo. price 14s., the Fifth Thousand of

A SURVEY OF THE HOLY LAND:

ITS GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, AND DESTINY.

Designed to elucidate the Imagery and Oriental Allusions of
Scripture, and demonstrate the Fulfilment of Prophecy.

BY J. T. BANNISTER,

(Author of "Chart of the Holy Land," "Incidents of Jewish History," &c. &c.)

With an Introduction by the REV. W. MARSH, D.D.

Vicar of St. Mary's, Leamington.

Illustrated with numerous superior Maps and Engravings.

10

17

18

19

20

$\frac{L_0}{L} = \frac{1}{r}$

21

$\frac{L_0}{L} = \frac{1}{r}$

22

$\frac{L_0}{L} = \frac{1}{r}$

23

$\frac{L_0}{L} = \frac{1}{r}$

24

$\frac{L_0}{L} = \frac{1}{r}$

25

$\frac{L_0}{L} = \frac{1}{r}$

26



